



Unimas students to carry out research on Btg Kayan

by Elizabeth Serai James

KUCHING – A group of 45 students from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) and three universities from Denmark will carry out research on Batang Kayan catchment in Lundu from 14 January to 1 February 2003.

The research will be carried out by 25 students from Unimas who are under the masters' programme on Sustainable Land Use and Natural Resource Management or Sluse-Malaysia (Sluse-M).

The 20 Danish students are from the three Danish universities namely; University of Copenhagen, Royal Veterinary and Agriculture University and Roskilde University.

Five villages, Kampung Bokah, Kampung Selampit, Kampung Sebandi, Kampung Stunggang and Kampung Sekambal, have been selected for the research site.

They will also be used by the students and their lecturers as a homestay while doing their research.

According to Sluse-M assistant project director Robert Malong, the students would also conduct studies on development of the villages.

"Apart from that, the students are also required to carry out watershed studies including natural resource inventory and management, and hydrology and water quality," Robert told Tribune at his office yesterday.

He added that studies on biodiversity such as origins, maintenance and change of biodiversity, systematics inventory and classification, monitoring of biodiversity and conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity would also be conducted by the students.

"Danish as well as Unimas students will receive credits for the course and the participating teaching staff of Unimas and Danish universities will assume field supervision jointly," said Robert.

The Danish students have also been given a short course on the research to give them some view on what to expect in Lundu or Sarawak generally.

The course was delivered by one of the Unimas lecturer, Dr Mustafa Abdul Rahman who went to Denmark recently.

Meanwhile, Lundu district officer Arfan bin Haji Ahmad said that four lecturers from Unimas and three from Denmark had met him in August to discuss with him about the field trip.

"We have replied to their letter saying that we did not

object the research plan. However, we have not go to the ground to inform the affected villages and the longhouses about this as they have not given us the exact date on when are they coming," said Arfan when contacted in his office yesterday.

He added that they would only inform the villagers and the longhouse folks about the research plan when the Unimas lecturers had brief them on their list of activities to be carried out at the Batang Kayan catchment and at the villages and longhouses affected.

The lecturers from Unimas who will supervise the students are Professor Murtedza Mohamad, Associate Professor Dr Gabriel Tonga Noweg, Dr Mustafa Abdul Rahman and Associate Professor Dr Lau Seng. From Denmark are Dr Ole Merzt and Dr Kristine Juul.



JOINT RESEARCH GROUP ... The Unimas Sluse-M students who will carry out a research on Batang Kayan catchment in Lundu together with the Danish students.

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